

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122365

FOLLOWING DAR ES SALAAM 1674 ACTION SECSTATE KINSHASA

INFO BUJUMBURA KIGALI NAIROBI BUKAVU DTD 24 MAY

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 1674

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMUTS, SMITH AND HUNTER)

SUBJECT: W/W: THREE KIDNAPPED AMCITS; ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR PLANS

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 1667

1. ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR RECALLED EMBOFF 1300 HOURS MAY 24 AND ADVISED AS FOLLOWS: IN FURTHER MEETING AT FOREIGN MINISTRY TODAY, MAY 24, TANGOV AGAIN REQUESTED ZAIRE AID AND COOPERATION, WHICH HE SAID HE HAS PASSED ON TO KINSHASA. HE THEN MET WITH KIGOMA REGIONAL COMMISSIONER (WHO STILL IN DAR), AND LEARNED THAT GROUP OF ABOUT TEN "MELELIST" FOLLOWERS OF SOUMIALOT, INCLUDING SOME IMPORTANT ONES, WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY TANZANIANS SEVERAL WEEKS AGO AND WHOM HE HOPED WOULD LEAD TO SOUMIALOT CAMP, HAD IN FACT BEEN RELEASED SEVERAL DAYS AGO (BEFORE KIDNAPPING INCIDENT) AND HAD DISAPPEARED INTO FOREST. AMBASSADOR THOUGHT IT VERY IMPORTANT THAT SOME OF THESE PEOPLE BE ROUNDED UP AGAIN, BECAUSE HE CONFIDENT THEY CAN LEAD AUTHORITIES TO SOUMIALOT'S CAMP (WHICH HE BELIEVES IS SOMEWHERE IN-
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SIDE TANZANIA) AND POSSIBLY TO KIDNAPPERS. HE ASKED THAT USG

URGE TANGOV THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT RECAPTURE SOME OF THIS GROUP. (WE INTEND TO DO SO AT FIRST OPPORTUNITY.)

2. ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR IS PROCEEDING TO KIGOMA MAY 25. HE WILL OBTAIN LIST OF NAMES OF MULELISTS WHO HAD BEEN IN CUSTODY KIGOMA, AND GIVE COPY TO AMCONSUL MACFARLANE FOR TRANSMISSION TO US. HE ALSO SAID HE HAD SOME AGENTS WHO COULD BE USEFUL, AND WHOM HE WOULD MAKE USE OF IN SEARCH FOR LEADS AS TO KIDNAPPERS. HE BELIEVES (AND WE CONCUR) THAT INTELLIGENCE WORK IS MOST LIKELY METHOD OF OBTAINING LEADS.

3. AMBASSADOR SAID HE HAD TALKED TO BURUNDI AMBASSADOR, WHO SAID BURUNDI MILITARY ARE ON ALERT.

4. AMBASSADOR REMAINS VERY SENSITIVE INDEED ABOUT SUGGESTIONS IN PRESS OR ELSEWHERE OF ZAIRIAN INVOLVEMENT (THOUGH HE TACITLY ADMITS THAT MULELISTS LIKELY CULPRITS--THOUGH LOCATED IN TANZANIA), OR OF REBELLION OR LACK OF ORDER INSIDE ZAIRE. HAS COMPLAINED TO FONOFF ABOUT EARLY TANZANIAN PRESS COVERAGE IMPLICATING ZAIRE, AND POINTED OUT THAT THIS SORT OF THING COULD LEAD ZAIRE TO REFUSE COOPERATION.

5. EMBOFF INFORMED AMBASSADOR OF PROPOSAL BEING MADE TO TANZANIAN, ZAIRIAN, AND BURUNDI GOVERNMENTS FOR RADIO APPEAL ON STATIONS OF ALL THREE COUNTRIES.

6. FOR DEPT INFO ONLY: LOCAL NEWS SOURCE TOLD US TODAY (MAY 24) THAT HE UNDERSTANDS TANGOV OVER YEAR AGO ARRESTED GABRIEL YUMBU, LEADER, AND PERHAPS SECRETARY GENERAL, OF ZAIRE BASED POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY PARTY (PRP). SOURCE BELIEVES KIDNAPPING MAY BE POLITICAL EFFORT POPULARIZE PRP GOALS IN ZAIRE AND EFFECT RELEASE OF YUMBU. WITHOUT REFERENCE TO HOW WE ACQUIRED THIS INFORMATION, WE INTEND TO ALSO RAISE THIS ITEM WITH FONMIN AT NEXT OPPORTUNITY.

7. COMMENT: ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR MAY BE IN POSITION TO ENLIST EXPERTISE AMONG ZAIRIAN POPULATION KIGOMA AREA WITH CONTACTS
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TO BANDIT GANGS. WE HAVE PROMISED HIM EVERY COOPERATION, INCLUDING COMMUNICATIONS VIA MACFARLANE/LUCIUS RADIO IF NEEDED. AMBASSADOR'S CONTINUED EXPRESSION OF SENSITIVITIES CONCERNING IMPLICATIONS OF ZAIRIAN INVOLVEMENT ALSO SUGGEST THAT WE TAKE HEED OF THESE SENSITIVITIES TO EXTENT WE CAN IN OUR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMENTS ON KIDNAPPING.
CARTER UNQTE
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